

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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32605

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⇒ *Newsletter submissions are due the Monday before the last Sunday of the month*

NEWSLETTER, FOURTH MONTH, 2009

JEAN LARSON, CLERK

MUTUAL CARE

Query: How do we foster a spirit of community among the Meeting's members and attenders? How does the Meeting keep in contact with all of the Meeting's members and attenders? How does the Meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment? Does the Meeting Community nurture the Meeting's children? How does the Meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption? Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require? How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living give grounds for concern? How are visitors to our Meeting made to feel welcome?

Advice: Be truthful and sincere and thus encourage these qualities in others. Through example and education, help each other to recognize and follow the voice of God both in our spiritual lives and in joyful and willing service. Watch with tenderness over the opening minds of children. Seek to awaken in them the love and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, and a sense of security in the love of God. Remember that there is a unique potential in each human being as a beloved child of God, and the Holy Spirit may lead children to give wise counsel to listening adults. Young people, too, have responsibility to care for the Meeting and to participate in Meetings both for Worship and for Business. Faith is needed as a vital part of our living.

Ministry & Nurture

Hold in the Light: Carol Doughty, a long time member of our meeting who is now living in Sweden with her husband and 7 year old daughter, has cancer. Paul & Polly Doughty traveled to Sweden to be with her.

On the third Sunday in April, April 19, we will hold **Meeting for Worship** outdoors in an area just west of the meetinghouse that has been cleared for that purpose. There may be enough benches for everyone, but we advise bringing folding chairs as well as insect repellent, and blankets to put on the ground for little children.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will be held at 9:30 am (preceded by a 9am breakfast) on that Sunday, because the second Sunday is Easter and the last day of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering.

Quaker Study Program: Fri 4/24 at 6pm potluck with discussion following. Brian Blackmore is leading a presentation on the book "Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry" written by Brian Drayton.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting News:

- Nancy Maia and Stoph Hallward have been invited to be next year's Michener Lecturers.
- Draft IV of the "Yearly Meeting" section of our Faith and Practice is being sent out to monthly meetings for approval. This means we will need to schedule a time for the meeting to read over the section for our approval.
- As of January the General Fund had \$700. Our reserves were at \$25,000. Out of the reserves the money to reserve the Life Enrichment Center for the Annual Gathering (\$7,000) is paid with the fond hope that the money collected from people who attend will replenish the money spent. The Funds used to pay the secretary's salary and fund outreach/travel for Friends who wish to attend Quaker gatherings as SEYM representatives. The Funds are down in value by 7% as of Jan. due to the drop in the stock market.
- Meetings report rising concern about homelessness. We are urged to work with other groups in our community to alleviate the problem. There is a concern that our children are in debt to pay for the destruction of children in Iraq and Afghanistan. The health care of all is in jeopardy: some are bombed, some have to pay for the bombs instead of health care. The deserts are filled with radiation now.
- Some of the haircutters who have graduated from the haircutters' school started by Pam Haigh of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, are now working for themselves with cell phones, going to clients' homes or meeting their clients at Quaker House. This way they earn more money, since they do not have to pay rent.
- An anonymous donor pays for free meals for 40 children who live in the dump outside Managua. Pam and Herb Haigh took 30 children who live in the dump to the circus. The children kept running to the door because they are not used to having a roof over their heads.
- Cece Yokum, of Tampa Monthly Meeting, went to Columbia over the summer, training facilitators to do training workshop in Alternatives to Violence. Guatemala and Nicaragua are troubled by gang violence. Alternatives to Violence Programs are starting there. Nadine Hoover, who used to belong to Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, is available to come to our meeting in October to present a program about the AVP in Indonesia as well as her work with trauma victims and Human Rights. She will definitely be a popular speaker in the South Florida meetings, so it is recommended that if we would like to have her come, we make arrangements soon.
- The Friends Peace Teams sections in Rwanda and Burundi are doing well. They are moving into the Congo where the need is great. (Pray for these people, folks. They are walking right into a war.)
- Gathering: April 8 – 12th north of Leesburg at the Methodist Life Enrichment Center. The Walton Lecturer is **Mary Ellen McNish** from AFSC. **Karen Porter** will lead the elementary group. Fingerprinted and screened volunteers are needed to work with the youth. There will be a "coffee shop" after the Walton Lecture run by the teens. FGC will have two workshops on outreach and "Quaker Quest." There will be a threshing session on the history of SEYM, an interest group on "Activism" and a Committee on Racism meeting on Saturday at 2:30pm.

Connie Ray, Ministry & Nurture Clerk

Around the Meetinghouse ♦ Jean Larson ♦ March 23, 2009

Many flowers have bloomed in March around the meetinghouse, and of those, many have finished their flowering. The dogwood between our worship room and the social room by the north fence bloomed beautifully this year, and the yellow jessamine can be seen blooming on the fence behind it. Both have finished their blooms for the year as has the Chickasaw plum planted by the back retention pond, and the Flatwoods plum in the woods at the south end of the front retention pond.

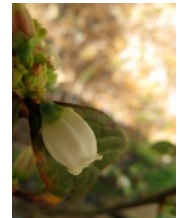


There remain many delights to be seen if one looks closely. The green Dragons (*Arisaema dracontium*) are lifting their whorls of leaflets up into view in the wetlands, and at least two have jack-in-the-pulpit type hoods with slender spathes emerging from them. Dappled here and there in the forest and in the bottom of both retention ponds are five petaled flowers like jewels scattered here and there. The Southern Dewberry is a low growing bramble with a delicate open flower that eventually leads to a red berry. The berries add to the wildlife forage.



The brilliant blue of the Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) has been catching my eye these days. Each bloom only lasts a day, and as the light fades in the evening the blooms are all closed up again. Wriggling tadpoles are visible in the creek where the path from the end of the parking area runs into it.

The blueberries (*Vaccinium corybusum*) Brad planted behind the Meetinghouse had flowers! Brad plucked the flowers to encourage them to put their energy into growing strong roots, so they will survive the sporadic droughts we have.



Bud used his chain saw to girdle a large Chinese tallow tree that has been sending seedlings down the ditch and across the wetlands for years. It would be good to remove this source of invasive new seedlings. Bud also transplanted some coonties from the children's yard to grace the sign out front announcing our meeting. Since the bright orange fruiting bodies of the coontie are poisonous, I am glad they are out of the children's yard and they soften the sign nicely.



On Saturday as I walked down the creek bed picking up air potatoes (I collected 19 pounds), and then as I carried them across a section of our land, I was pleased to note how few are on our land, mainly due to all the work that Bill has done digging up their subterranean tubers. And on one trip along the driveway, I spotted some panicles of white flowers. It was the White false indigo (*Baptisia alba*), a member of the bean family that dies back in the winter, had shot up and put out some lovely flowers. The blue flowered variant of this plant has been used to dye clothes, but the genus *Indigofera* is the one know for indigo dye.

On Sunday, the children planted seeds in a new raised bed within the herb garden. We will be watching in the coming weeks to see how they come up.



Many thanks to Jean for writing this wonderful column each month and for Bill who sends me beautiful photos that I can share with all of you. ...Annie

On April 5th @ 2:30, **The Friends Reading Group** is examining Flannery O'Connor's "Wise Blood", "Everything that Rises Must Converge", and "The Violent Bear it Away". These short stories are compiled into a widely available anthology called "3". Please come join us for tea and a lively conversation. In May, The Friends Reading Group is meeting to discuss "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. *Brian*

The Book Nook

By *Sandy Lyon*



No Time But This Present, Studies Preparatory to the Fourth World Conference of Friends 1967, is part of the collection of books recently donated by Friends Meeting in Ocala. There are five major divisions within the book: The Nurture of the Spiritual Life, The Ecumenical Challenge, The Community of Friends, The Community of Peoples, and Peace and PeaceKeeping. Each division contains several thought-provoking articles representing a variety of views typical of the wide range of thought and opinions about the major issues facing Quakers worldwide at that time. It's an easy book to read. Each article is relatively short and stands well on its own. Taken as a group, they provide a kaleidoscope through which to view an issue.

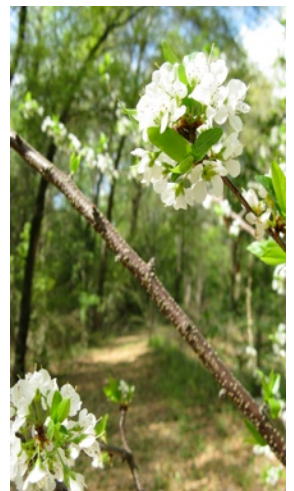
It is fascinating reading on at least two levels. On one level, the 60's and 70's have many parallels with our current worldwide upheaval. While there has been some progress, most of the challenges are still with us, with increasing complexity due to the worldwide economic crisis and social and political changes.



On another level, that era was during my college years. While I was aware of many of the issues and had limited involvement in some of them, it became clear to me how narrow and naïve my perception was. As

I was reading *No Time But This Present*, I was also reading *Poisonwood Bible* for the book study group. It was fascinating to read a fictional, historically rich, first hand account of many of the same issues. The combination of these two books is one of those divine coincidences that continue to enrich my life and stretch my mind and shape my faith.

Cotton Club Restoration Project: Gainesville Friends will be joining other churches and faith communities in the effort to restore an old landmark dance hall in the African American historic pre-integration part of our city. Once this area was a vibrant, separate community and the dance hall symbolizes that lost culture to our African American friends. To further this work, we have scheduled a breakfast fundraiser for Sun. March 29th at 8:30am. Vivian Filer will join us and speak about this exciting project.



From Clerk Jean ...Nasim Yousefi and Jafar Edrisi recently returned to Iran after cycling around the world for peace and the environment and planted their 100th tree in Tehran. I sent them a picture Bill took of the Chickasaw plum tree they planted on our lot last spring, with greetings from the meeting. The first of spring is a special day of celebration in Iran. Here is what they wrote in reply: "So wonderful to hear from you. Here in



Tehran all of the trees are having blossoms. Yesterday we were talking about our peace tree in Gainesville while we were looking at the trees. Also we had a show on TV and we showed the picture of our Gainesville spring tree on the show. Everybody loves this tree. Thank you so much for sending us the picture. We think about you folks all the time and never forget your kindness. Hope to see you soon.”

FOURTH MONTH 2009 GFM CALENDAR

3/28/09	Sat	6pm	Welcoming Party for new members Brian & Sandy at Gary Arthur's
3/29/09	Sun	8:30am	Fundraiser Breakfast for the Cotton Club Restoration
		1pm	Teen/Adult Fishbowl
3/30/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/5/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum – Interview with Karen Armstrong
		2:30pm	Friends Reading Group – 3 by Flannery O'Conner
4/6/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/7/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
4/8-4/12			SEYM Gathering – Leesburg FL
4/13/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/14/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline meeting
4/17/09	Fri		Film Night - Kinamand
4/18/09	Sat	9am	Work Day
4/19/09	Sun	9am	Breakfast
		9:30am	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		11am	Meeting for Worship in Nature
			Potluck & Quaker Earthcare Witness
4/20/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/24/09	Fri	6pm	Quaker Study Program – Brian Blackmore
4/25/09	Sat	6pm	Chili Extravaganza
4/26/09	Sun	9:30am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
		1pm	Bible Study
4/27/09	Mon	6:30pm	Yoga
4/28/09	Tues	7pm	GI Rights Hotline meeting
5/2/09	Sun	9:30am	Library, Hospitality & Meetinghouse Committee meetings
		1pm	Forum - TBA
		2:30pm	Friends Book Group
5/4/09	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse.

First-day School: The children have planted vegetable seeds in our new square garden, thanks to Dick, Mona, Bud, Sheree, Jerry. We are searching for a date for a First-day class with Gary Arthur and lots of music. We'd like to find a time for the teens/pre-teens to go to the beach for overnight.

School Committee: Copies of the history and efforts of the committee to start a Quaker school are available at the meetinghouse. Comments and suggestions are welcomed. *Laura*

Community Ministries: Hungry families receive our non-perishable food gifts through this fine agency. Please continue to bring such food each First-day. We'd love to have a load to take to them each week. *Jim and Laura*

CELEBRATE! Friends are invited to join in celebrating the recent addition of two new members to the Meeting: Brian Blackmore and Sandy Lyon. Please come to a welcoming potluck dinner party to be held on Saturday, March 28th at Gary Arthur's house at 1714 NW 11th Rd. in Gainesville off of NW 13th St. (224-5143). We'll gather at 6 p.m. and eat at 6:30 p.m.. Potluck is just that... bring whatever you want, just come!

The Landscape Committee has been charged with finding an approved location for the Meeting's Peace Pole. In order to move toward a recommendation, a short survey was conducted with those members and attenders present at Meeting on this past First Day. I would like to offer to members and attenders a chance to have their recommendations considered. Please complete the following short survey and return it to Brad Thompson via e-mail. I can be reached via e-mail at bradwt12@ufl.edu. If you do not have access to e-mail you can both complete a hard copy and bring the completed questionnaire to Meeting, or you can call me at 215-429-4200 and I can record your responses over the phone.

Peace Pole Questionnaire

1. Are you aware that the Meeting has a peace pole? Yes ____ No ____
2. What in your opinion is the purpose of a peace pole?
3. What in your opinion is an appropriate location for the peace pole? (This can be a general recommendation such as a generic location, front, back side of the property or a specific spot on the property).
4. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being not at all important and 10 being very important, how important to you is having a peace pole on our property?

Not at all important Somewhat important Very Important

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Hospitality Committee: Our next meeting is 4/5 at 9:30am at the Meetinghouse. Agenda: workday planning, May Quaker Dinner and planning for Fall Arts and Crafts Bazaar. Besides having an evening of fun and great Irish food, the St. Patrick's dinner netted \$360 for the Meetinghouse General Fund.

Workday - April 18 at 9am. We plan to go all day!

Committee Clerks are reminded to review what needs doing and to contact committee members to schedule that work. Walter Morris is asking Clerks to give him a list of planned work. He will make a list and post it where helping volunteers can see what needs done. .

Chili Extravaganza - April 25 at 6pm. Persons who are devoted "chiliheads" are encouraged to sign up to make this hearty dish in any and all categories from mild to four alarm, vegetarian or not, as well as cooks who are willing to sign up for "palate soothing" accompanying food of corn bread and coleslaw. The dessert of Lemon Meringue Pie is being recruited. Look for the sign up sheets in the kitchen. *Mona Morris*

Film Night: Friday, April 17th at 7 pm, at the Meetinghouse. We will show "Kinamand" (Danish film), an unlikely love story about a Danish plumber who is asked to enter into a marriage of convenience with the sister of the owner of his local Chinese restaurant.A touching and moving story. *Jim Morrison*

Peace & Social Concerns: Committee meeting on April 26, 9:45am at the Meetinghouse.

Forum: Peace and Social Concerns will sponsor a forum on Sunday, April 5th at 1 pm, featuring Bill Moyers' interview with Karen Armstrong, about her quest for a universal charter for "compassion." She has authored many books about the world's religions, including A History of God, The Bible: A Biography, The Great Transformation, Mohammed: A Biography of the Prophet.

